



THE SPOTLIGHT

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JUDGE ORDERS CHANGES IN ABSTINENCE PROGRAM: LOUISIANA FOUND TO BE PROMOTING RELIGION

The Washington Post-July 26, 2002- BYLINE: Ceci Connolly, Washington Post Staff Writer

A federal judge in Louisiana ruled yesterday that the state illegally used federal money to promote religion in the abstinence-only sex education programs, a decision that could jeopardize President Bush's ambitions for expanding the effort nationwide.

U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Porteous Jr. ordered the state to stop giving money to individuals of organizations that "convey religious messages or otherwise advance religion" with tax dollars. He said there was ample evidence that many of the groups participating in the Governor's Program on Abstinence were "furthering religious objectives."

Using government money to distribute Bibles, stage prayer rallies outside clinics that provide abortions and perform skits with characters that preach Christianity violate the Constitution's separation of church and state, he ruled.

(cont'd on page 2)

PARKLAND VIP CENTER RECEIVES SPECIAL NAPH AWARD

Parkland Health and Hospital System Media Release Dated June 21, 2002

DALLAS-Parkland Health & Hospital System's Violence Intervention and Prevention Center (VIP) received the 2002 Jim Wright Vulnerable Populations Award Friday, June 21 at the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) Annual Conference in San Diego, CA.

The VIP Center received the award for its service to victims of violence, which includes victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and survivors of torture. The award is named after Jim Wright, who died at the age of 47 after assuming chairmanship of the NAPH board. The most distinguished recognition conferred by NAPH, the award honors Mr. Wright and his efforts to serve the many vulnerable populations who come to our nation's safety net institutions.

"It is an honor to receive this award," said Dr. Sharon Walker, unit manager of the VIP Center. "The award lets us know that our patients benefit from our intervention."

"The breadth and depth of the programs being recognized by the 2002 awards demonstrates the enormous clinical and technological capacity of America's safety net hospitals," said Larry Gage, president of the NAPH. "In view of recent events in our nation's history, it seems especially noteworthy that our two special awards recognize violence prevention and crisis response."

The VIP Center, funded by federal grants and through financial support from private organizations, for-

(cont'd on page 8)

MOLESTATION VICTIMS TURN SECRECY, SHAME AGAINST THEMSELVES, EXPERTS SAY

San Jose Mercury News-June 28, 2002- Byline: By John Woolfolk

San Jose, Calif. A Sunnyvale teenager takes her life and leaves a note that hints she may have been molested by a close family friend. A Portola Valley woman, abused as a child by family members, battled the urge to kill herself for years. And grown men and women from San Jose to Boston reveal searing emotional scars left when priests molested them as children.

These painful stories underscore a growing realization that such sexual abuse can profoundly damage children, leaving victims suffering from feelings of guilt, shame and self-hatred that can last a lifetime.

"People didn't understand the

(cont'd on page 3)

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON TEEN PREGNANCY

Mathematical approach clarifies subtle patterns, points way to action

Dallas Morning News-August 12, 2002- By Sarah Goforth

Adolescent behavior is about as easy to understand as complex physics, but putting the two together is yielding new insight into the habits of Texas teens.

Specifically, the math used to make sense out of chaos is helping scientists understand how social and environmental conditions affect teen pregnancy rates in Texas.

The findings could someday help curb teen pregnancies and make those that occur safer for mothers and infants.

One discovery of note is that conception rates among the state's unmarried teenagers drop sharply in he summer and rise in the fall, re-

(cont'd on page 3)

ANIMAL CRUELTY AND FAMILY VIOLENCE: MAKING THE CONNECTION

From SYNERGY-Volume 5-No. 2-Summer 2001; By Claire Ponder

In a recent case in Toledo, Ohio a man assaulted his wife and killed her kitten by placing the animal in an oven that was turned up to 500 degrees. The woman, returning home from work, was told by her husband that dinner was ready. When she opened the oven, she discovered the lifeless body of her six-month-old kitten. As she attempted to flee the home, her husband assaulted her by tightening a jump rope around her neck, pushing her to the ground, and punching and kicking her. Her husband was arrested on charges of felony domestic violence and misdemeanor animal cruelty. The maximum penalty for the domestic violence charge is one year in jail and 90 days in jail for the animal cruelty charge.

In another dramatic case this past year, a Florida woman, recently separated from her abusive husband, was horrified to discover that shortly after she left he killed her two cats by drowning them in the family's swimming pool. The woman, who had hoped to return for her cats after she found a new home, felt this was a clear warning to her and made her fear for her own life. Despite the requests of the prosecutor and victim that the court recognize the animal cruelty as part of a larger pattern of domestic violence, the judge hearing the case sentenced her ex-husband to only six months in prison and three years' probation rather than the

(cont'd on page 2)

LA. ABSTINENCE PROGRAM

(cont'd from page 1)

One group in its monthly report talked about using the Christmas message of Mary as a prime example of the virtue of abstinence.

"December was an excellent month for our program," the Rapides Station Community Ministries said in a report quoted by the court. "We were able to focus on the virgin birth and make it apparent that God's desire [sic] sexual purity as a way of life."

Gov. Mike Foster (R) expressed dismay over the decision and said he would review the state's legal options.

"It's a sad day when such a worthwhile program is attacked by the very people who are supposed to protect the interests of the citizens of Louisiana," he said.

The suit, filed in May by the American Civil Liberties Union, was the first legal challenge to abstinence-only programs created under the 1996 welfare reform legislation. Bush has asked Congress to extend the \$50 million-a-year program and increase other federal abstinence grants from \$40 million this year to \$73 million next year. Cities, states or organizations that receive the federal grants must use the money to teach abstinence as the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Supporters say abstinence education helps youngsters build character and develop the skills to "say no to sex." Grant recipients may not discuss contraception, except in the context of failure rates of condoms.

"Today's decision should stand as a wake-up call that this practice is unacceptable," said Catherine Weiss, director of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project.

The ruling was also a victory for liberals and public health advocates who argue that abstinence-until-marriage programs are unrealistic and put young people in danger of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Abstinence-only "is not a public health program," said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth, which lobbies for broad-based sex education. "This is either ideology or religious instruction trying to pass itself off as public health."

The most recent, detailed analyses have concluded "the jury is still out" (cont'd on page 4)

ANIMAL CRUELTY

(cont'd from page 1)

maximum sentence of two years in prison.

Unfortunately, these cases are not unusual. Each year, we see an increasing number of domestic violence cases in which animal cruelty is also present. Increased awareness about the animal cruelty/family violence connection from these and other high-profile cases, as well as several recent studies on the issue have prompted professionals involved in family violence to partner with animal protection organizations to develop interagency collaborations aimed at reducing animal cruelty and family violence.

EVIDENCE OF THE CONNECTION

In recent years it has become widely accepted that the mistreatment of animals can be an indicator of many forms of family violence and ongoing abuse and neglect, including domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse. Several recent research studies assessing the prevalence with which perpetrators of domestic violence use animals to intimidate, silence, and control vulnerable human victims have alerted the public and anti-violence professionals about this connection.

One of the first studies to validate the connection between animal cruelty and family violence was conducted in New Jersey in 1983. In this study, researchers interviewed a sample of families that had been referred to the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services for child abuse and found that in 88 percent of pet-owning families with a history of physical abuse, at least one person in the family had abused animals.² In two-thirds of the cases the perpetrator of the animal abuse was the

one person in the family had abused animals.² In two-thirds of the cases the perpetrator of the animal abuse was the abusive parent or adult in the home. However, in one-third of cases the children themselves became the animal abusers, often imitating the violence they had seen or experienced, using the pet as a victim.

In the past decade, several researchers have expanded our knowledge of the animal abuse/family violence connection by examining the prevalence of animal cruelty in domestic violence relationships. In 1995 and 1998, researchers interviewed victims of domestic violence who sought shelter in Utah and found that over 70 percent of the victims who owned pets reported that their partners had threatened, hurt or killed the family pet.³ Nearly 20 percent of the women reported that they had delayed leaving their abuser out of fear that their abuser would retaliate against them by harming or killing their pet. In addition, similar to the results from the New Jersey study, researchers noted that 32 percent of the victims of domestic violence who owned pets reported that one or more of their children had hurt or killed a family pet.

More recently, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) conducted the first national study to assess the extent of human violence in cases

(cont'd on page 4)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED HEALTH PROBLEMS

Women's Health Weekly July 25, 2002

Physically and sexually abused women have a 50-70% increase in gynecological, central nervous system, and stress-related problems than women who have never been abused, according to an article in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD., RN, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and colleagues conducted a study comparing physical health problems of abused and never-abused women with similar access to health care. The study of a sample of 2005 women ages 21-55 years who are enrollees in a health maintenance organization in the metropolitan Washington, DC area represented a racially balanced and primarily highly educated group of middle-class working women. The researchers, using the Abuse

(cont'd on page 4)

ABUSE CAN PERMANENTLY "REWIRE" CHILDREN'S BRAINS

From The Children's Bureau Express- March/April 2001

Physical scars may heal, but abuse leaves an indelible impression upon children's developing brains, according to investigators at the McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Physical, psychological, or sexual abuse can "rewire" the developing brain during childhood, and these changes eventually may cause disorders such as anxiety and depression to surface in adulthood. "The science shows that childhood maltreatment may produce changes in both brain function and structure," said lead investigator Dr. Martin Telcher. His team found that the following four types of abnormalities were more likely to be

present in child abuse and neglect victims:

- Changes to the limbic system—the part of the brain that controls emotions—resulting in epileptic seizures and abnormal electroencephalograms (EEG), usually affecting the left hemisphere of the brain, which is associated with more self-destructive behavior and more aggression.
- Deficient development of the left side of the brain, which may contribute to depression and impaired memory.
- Impaired corpus callosum—the pathway (cont'd on page 4)

THE SPOTLIGHT

Volume 3, Issue 3

Quarter III, 2002

MOLESTATION VICTIMS

(cont'd from page 1)

damage that it did," said Jerry Doyle, president of EMQ Children and Family Services, a mental health care organization based in Campbell, Calif., that treats sexual abuse victims. "They might have thought it was wrong or gross, but what they didn't understand was the long-term damage that it does to the victim."

As that understanding has deepened, researchers have probed the effects of the trauma and learned that therapy -sometimes for years - is crucial for some victims. And states have written laws that make it easier to bring abusers to justice.

Studies have shown that pent-up psychological pain can alter brain chemistry and personality, complicating treatment.

"If you stress the brain long enough you cause chemical changes in it," said psychiatrist David Arredondo, who is EMQ's medical director. "When you do that to a developing child, you alter character structure. It leads to self-defeating and ultimately self-destructive behavior."

Society's squeamishness over the subject and the reluctance of many victims to come forward have frustrated efforts to study and treat sexually abused children.

The 300,000 cases reported annually are believed to be just a fraction of the total, according to the international Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. As many as one in five girls and one in 10 boys are believed to be molested, the group maintains.

Victims such as Michaelene Cristini Risley of Portola Valley know how hard it is to overcome. She says she was abused by family members from the time she was 7. One would lure her into his room with a toy that would later give her nightmares. Even so, she could never bring herself to tell.

"As a child, I was petrified," Risley said, "I love my family. You blame yourself. You become so self-loathing you literally become an abuser to yourself."

After battling binge-eating and suicidal thoughts for years, Risley moved to California and sought therapy. She said she resolved not to let the abuse ruin her life. "Eventually, I got to the point where I was really tough," she said, "and I said, 'I'm going to get through this and survive and thrive.'"

Risley has since founded Freshwater Haven, a non-profit organization to promote child abuse awareness and support.

Sadly, many victims aren't able to go on.

In January, 14-year-old Sarah Van Cleemput of Sunnyvale shot herself in the

head. Police say notes she left behind implicate a neighbor and close family friend, Richard "Dick" Stone. He has been charged with molesting her and another girl.

Abuse by just one Catholic priest in Kansas has been blamed in the suicides of five young men, said David Clohessy of St. Louis, director of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP. An abuse victim himself, Clohessy said he still struggles with nightmare, depression and sexual problems.

"Regardless of how long ago an incident happens, the pain and its effects are still very much with survivors well into their adult lives," Clohessy said. Childhood sexual abuse was seen as too controversial for open debate when Sigmund Freud first began studying it a century ago, Arredondo said.

After the Vietnam War, studies on what had historically been dismissed as "battle fatigue" began documenting what is now known as post-traumatic stress syndrome, Arredondo said. That laid the groundwork for understanding a host of childhood traumas ranging from kidnapping to sexual abuse, he said.

Experts have since found that pain from sexual abuse is remarkably long-lasting.

"Children can go on and grow up and figure out how to cope with these kinds of incidents and events," said David Fassier, chairman of the American Psychiatric Association's Council on Children, Adolescence and Their Families. "But I've never met a child who has completely overcome or outgrown the consequences of abuse or molestation."

Children have a range of responses to abuse. "There are the internalizers and the externalizers," Arredondo said. "Externalizers end up in juvenile hall. They have conduct problems and substance abuse problems. Internalizers, they just hold the pain in until they can't hold it anymore. And then you end up with a tragic outcome."

That may have been the case with Sarah, whose parents, teachers and neighbors never saw signs of trouble. To the end, the Fremont High School freshman was a model

(cont'd on page 4)

TEEN PREGNANCY

(cont'd from page 1)

searchers reported recently in an online paper.

During summer, school holidays interrupt the steady social contact that teens have with each other, providing fewer opportunities for sexual relationships to develop. In the fall, conception rates rise again with the start of the school year.

It sounds simple enough. But the forces underlying such social behaviors are anything but, says Patti Hamilton, director of the Center for Nonlinear Science in the College of Nursing at Texas Woman's University in Denton. In complex systems such as the social environments of teenagers, small changes in conditions can have

dramatic, and complicated, effects later on.

Ms. Hamilton and collaborators at Duke University and the University of North Texas looked at the numbers of births to married and unmarried teens in Texas from 1994 to 1998. The subject merits particular attention in Texas, where more young people, ages 13 to 19, give birth every year than in any state except California.

In the past, many researchers and demographers have focused on the difference in birth rates on an annual basis. The trend most commonly watched is whether birth rates have increased or decreased in a given year. But "aggregating down to one number per year doesn't contain all of the information," Ms. Hamilton says.

(cont'd on page 5)

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

By THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA - A PROCLAMATION

Domestic violence in America is intolerable and must be stopped. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, almost 700,000 incidents of violence between partners were documented in our Nation, and thousands more go unreported. And in the past quarter century, almost 57,000 Americans were murdered by a partner. Children who witness domestic violence often grow up believing that physical cruelty in relationships is acceptable behavior, and thus they may tend to perpetuate a cycle of violence in society.

Many Federal, State, and local programs addressing the domestic violence problem have achieved success, bringing greater safety to families. The success of coordinated community-based efforts is helping us win the battle against domestic violence. Community leaders, police, judges, advocates, healthcare workers, and concerned Americans are working together across America to develop solutions to this serious problem and to implement services that will improve our responses when it occurs. For example, many police departments and district attorneys offices have created specialized domestic violence units that cooperate with community advocates to enhance services for victims; and representatives

from the faith community frequently provide essential support in areas where there may be no other services available. Programs designed to educate men and women about ways they can help prevent domestic violence are being developed across our Nation. Every citizen has the ability to aid and assist those suffering from domestic abuse and to let victims know that support is available through shelters, hotlines, and other services.

To better assist victims in need, my Administration recently implemented funding for new programs to improve outreach and services for people who are older or who have disabilities.

We have also intensified our efforts to provide meaningful access to Federally sponsored programs for individuals with limited English proficiency, making it easier for them to escape violence, report crime, and gain access to community services.

We must continue to hold

(cont'd on page 5)

THE SPOTLIGHT

Volume 3, Issue 3

Quarter III, 2002

MOLESTATION VICTIMS

(cont'd from page 3)

student who loved martial arts, music and her family.

Children keep their terrible secret for several reasons. Many still love their abuser, who is often a family member. They may find the abuser's attention flattering and feel partly responsible. Abusers often threaten to hurt them or another family member if they talk. And victims fear they may be blamed, not believed, or simply told to get over it.

"There are still a lot of parents who say, 'Come on, it happened a long time ago,' or 'Come on, it just happened once,'" Clohessy said.

State legislatures in recent years have toughened molestation laws. A crime that once fetched a few years in prison now can lead to a lifetime behind bars. Victims now have more time after the crime and need less evidence to bring cases to court.

A California law enacted last year gives victims until they're 21 to report sexual abuse claims otherwise barred by the statute of limitations and lowers the threshold of evidence needed to go to trial.

Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Jay Boyarsky pushed for the law, carried by Assemblywoman Elaine Alquist, D-San Jose, after a judge dismissed a case on a technicality related to the statute of limitations. The victim, Maricela Montes, a Gilroy teenager who said she was raped by her mother's boyfriend when she was 7, helped lobby lawmakers.

"There's a lay view that when something bad happens to a child, they are going to tell someone right away," Boyarsky said. "I think the law is slowly starting to change to recognize the phenomenon of delayed disclosure."

But defense lawyers worry that tough-on-crime zeal over sex cases is getting out of hand.

"Without negating the seriousness of sex charges, it is way out of proportion," said Santa Clara County Deputy Public Defender Barbara Fargo, noting that molesters can do more time than murderers.

"At some point it makes sense not to revive old charges," Fargo said. "A person has a right to believe that if a certain amount of time has gone by, you won't be brought into court."

"We know survivors of child molestation carry it forever, and that some go on to become perpetrators," Boyarsky said.

(cont'd on page 9).

ANIMAL CRUELTY

(cont'd from page 2)

of intentional animal cruelty. The HSUS's study, compiled with information from over 1,600 high-profile animal cruelty cases from around the country that occurred during year 2000, showed that at least 20 percent of intentional animal cruelty cases also involved some form of family violence, either domestic violence, child abuse or elder abuse. In addition, the study showed that over 31 percent of intentional cruelty cases—including burning, shooting, mutilating, and other egregious acts of cruelty against animals—were committed by male teenagers (94 percent) under the age of 18 and four percent were committed by children under the age of 12.⁴

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF ABUSE

In recent years, professionals involved in preventing family violence and animal cruelty have responded effectively to studies documenting the animal abuse/family violence connection by collaborating their efforts. Through partnerships between law enforcement, the courts, and human and animal service agencies, interventions with victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, and identification and treatment programs for youths exposed to family violence who may be at-risk for themselves becoming violent, are much more likely to be successful.

Three types of programs have emerged in the past decade that utilize these

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND HEALTH

(cont'd from page 2)

Assessment Screen, identified 201 women who were physically and/or sexually abused between January 1, 1989 and December 31, 1997. The researchers defined intimate partner violence (IPV) as physical and/or sexual assault by a husband, partner, ex-husband or ex-partner. The researchers had a random sample of 240 never-abused women as the control group for this study.

According to background information in the article, "there is mounting evidence that domestic violence has long-term negative health consequences for survivors, even after the abuse has ended." The authors wrote, "there is no agreement on the constellation of signs, symptoms, and illnesses that a primary care physician should recognize as associated with a current or prior history of domestic violence." The researchers stated that most health care professionals associate domestic violence with injuries resulting from battering, usually found on the face, neck, upper torso, breast or abdomen. "Yet, studies of battered women have found that the long-term aftermath of these injuries and the fear and stress associated with having an abusive intimate partner can result in several less obvious, and often long-term, health problems," the authors noted.

(cont'd on page 6)

LA. ABSTINENCE

(cont'd from page 2)

when it comes to teaching abstinence, said health researcher Douglas Kirby.

Wagoner called on policymakers to conduct audits of the abstinence programs similar to the current federal investigation of other types of sex education and HIV prevention programs.

Bill Pierce, spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said the Administration "remains deeply committed" to both abstinence-only programs and faith-based initiatives.

Weiss and Wagoner said that the misuse of abstinence money went beyond Louisiana and that they had begun to collect evidence of other instances of proselytizing. Many have close ties to the anti-abortion movement, they said.

Three weeks ago, HHS awarded \$27 million in new abstinence grants to numerous organizations with religious affiliations. Weiss acknowledged that it is constitutional to funnel tax money to religious groups as long as the

(cont'd on page 5)

ABUSE CAN PERMANENTLY "REWIRE" CHILDREN'S BRAINS

(cont'd from page 2)

integrating the two hemispheres of the brain—resulting in dramatic shifts in mood and personality, especially with boys who suffered neglect and sexually abused girls.

- Increased blood flow in the cerebellar vermis—the part of the brain involved in emotion, attention, and regulation of the limbic system—disrupting emotional balance.

In reviewing animal studies that showed that neglect and emotional trauma trigger changes in hormones and neurotransmitters in parts of the brain that regulate fear and anxiety, the research team speculated that the same process occurs in child victims. "We know that an animal exposed to stress and neglect early in life develops a brain that is wired experience fear, anxiety and stress, Teicher said. "We think that the same is true of people." Teicher

said.

For example, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is one of several psychiatric disorders that may be fueled by childhood trauma. Usually associated with combat veterans, PTSD victims continually relive a traumatic event in dreams and in waking life.

Teicher and his colleagues hope their findings about childhood abuse's impact on the brain will lead to new ideas for treatment and better efforts at prevention. "Childhood abuse isn't something you 'get over,'" Teicher observes. The study is published in the Fall 2000 issue of *Cerebrum* (<http://www.dana.org/books/press/cerebrum>).

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Volume 3, Issue 3

Quarter III, 2002

NEW YORK CITY PILOT TO BETTER SUPPORT FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

From The Children's Bureau Express

At the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators summer meeting July 20, 2002, William Bell, Commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in New York City, presented on New York City's response to a class action law suit filed in 2000. In the case *Nicholson v. Williams*, plaintiffs alleged that ACS, as a matter of policy, removes children from mothers who are victims of domestic violence and charges them with neglect solely because they are victims of domestic violence. The estimated number of removals in cases involving domestic violence during a 3-year period was 3,658. A State review of New York's ACS protective service cases investigated during 1999 found that 19 percent included a history of domestic violence. In New York City alone, ACS investigates 55,000 child abuse and neglect reports each year, which can involve 85,000-90,000 children. Many of the cases may stem from domestic violence.

As a result of this lawsuit, New York City has dramatically shifted its focus to better support families affected by domestic violence. Mr. Bell described the city's pilot initiatives to implement best practices in which child welfare and domestic violence advocates better collaborate to protect victims and children, and batterers are held accountable. Kathryn Conroy and Randy Magen of the Columbia University School of Social Work developed a 2-day screening curriculum. The training

was provided to contract preventive service programs in the city and training was provided for all new child protective services caseworkers. Training emphasized the dynamics of domestic violence, routine assessment, and safety planning with the victim as the primary intervention. In addition to training, the pilot project includes:

- Routine screening for domestic violence (routine assessment for domestic violence has doubled identification rates).
- Case-by-case assessment of child and adult safety and risk.
- Emphasis on safety planning with the victim.
- Increasing emphasis on holding abusive partners accountable.
- Safety interventions, including child removal, are made when necessary to ensure child safety.

Cross-systems strategic planning was also conducted with Office of Domestic Violence and Child Welfare. Twelve clinical teams that include domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse specialists are now placed in field offices to provide consultation and training to staff. A domestic violence protocol has been developed that includes tools for interviewing the victim and abusive partner, which are required whenever domestic violence is reported or suspected.

More information on best practices in responding to domestic violence can be found in the following resources:

- *In Harm's Way: Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment* on the web site of the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse (cont'd on page 6)

TEEN PREGNANCY

(cont'd from page 3)

Teen birth rates have decreased steadily since the early 1990s. But when charted on a line graph, Ms. Hamilton says, the lines showing the trends are jagged with peaks and valleys. The data that give rise to such fluctuations are commonly known as "noise" and are often ignored.

But the noise, she says, is not always random. Occasionally, the bumps and wiggles in linear data betray hidden trends - the more subtle kind that affect complicated social interactions, for example.

"The trick is to determine through statistical tests whether there is an underlying pattern within the data," says Euel Elliott, a social scientist at the University of Texas at Dallas. The patterns amid the noise can be extremely meaningful, says Dr. Elliott, if they can be found.

It isn't easy.

Finding the hidden information in teen pregnancy rates is like trying to decipher a computer-generated mosaic portrait. The overall picture might be Van Gogh in front of a dark background, for instance. Some details are obvious: He is wearing a tie. His hair is red.

But on closer inspection, a viewer sees that the portrait is really composed of hundreds of

(cont'd on page 7)

LA. ABSTINENCE

(from page 4)

money is used for secular purposes.

During a court hearing last month, Dan Richey, head of the Louisiana program, testified that the state had stopped subsidizing religious activities or overwhelmingly religious groups.

Porteous acknowledged the changes but added, "The Court does, however, feel the need to install legal safeguards to ensure the GPA (Governor's Program on Abstinence) does not fund 'pervasively sectarian' institutions in the future."

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POSES 'DOUBLE JEOPARDY'; WORKPLACE: The toll of abuse costs some victims their jobs. Senate panel considers protections.

From The Los Angeles Times July 26, 2002 byline: Michelle Munn Dateline: Washington

Kathy Evsich learned the hard way that, as a victim of domestic violence, finding an ally in an employer was rare.

She was fired twice because her employers wouldn't tolerate the hourly phone calls from her husband. Nor could they contend with his drive-by harassment, his threats to them or their fears that other employees could be harmed. But in November 1999, Evsich obtained a (cont'd on page 8)

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

(cont'd from page 3)

domestic abusers accountable; we must punish them to the full extent of the law; and we must prevent them from inflicting more abuse. Protective orders are helpful and can be enforced in every jurisdiction in our country, which means their power extends across State lines and onto tribal lands. This legal authority makes it easier for police and prosecutors to keep aggressors away from their intended targets. Many abusers become more dangerous after court-enforced separation from their victims and often use

visitation or exchange of children as an opportunity to inflict abuse. We are working to expand programs that improve the safety of family members in these situations.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I urge all Americans to join together in recommitting themselves to eliminating domestic violence and reaching out to its victims, letting them know that help is available. With dedication and vigilance, we can increase safety for thousands of our citizens and bring hope to countless Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH,

President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2002 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to become a part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence and to send the message that this crime will not be tolerated in our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE SPOTLIGHT

Volume 3, Issue 3

Quarter III, 2002

ANIMAL CRUELTY

(cont'd from page 4)

family violence:

Protecting Domestic Violence Victims and their Pets

In response to studies showing that more than 20 percent of domestic violence victims delayed leaving their abusive situation out of fear for their pets' safety, many domestic violence shelters and animal protection agencies have begun partnering to develop "safe haven programs," which provide temporary emergency housing for the pets of domestic violence victims. In the past five to 10 years, over a hundred of these programs have been established throughout the United States and Canada.⁵

Interagency Collaborations Reducing Animal Cruelty and Family Violence

Law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have begun partnering with anti-violence agencies, including social service agencies and animal protection agencies, to develop inter-agency collaborations, cross-training, cross-reporting, and multidisciplinary response teams, aimed at reducing animal cruelty and family violence. **Animal-Related Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs**

Perhaps the most important and successful approach to the problems of animal cruelty and family violence is early intervention and prevention. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of programs that utilize animals to build empathy, compassion, and responsibility in youths who have experienced violence or are identified as at-risk for becoming violent.

Taking Action in Your Community

Interagency programs, such as safe haven programs, multidisciplinary violence prevention programs, and animal-related intervention programs, provide new and innovative ways for social service agencies, animal protection agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and others concerned about violence, to tackle the long-standing problems of animal cruelty and family violence.

Professionals considering implementing a similar program in their

(cont'd on page 7)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HEALTH

(from page 4)

The researchers found that abused women had a roughly 60% higher rate of all health problems relative to never-abused women. The abused women reported more headaches, back pain, sexually transmitted diseases, vaginal bleeding, vaginal infection, pelvic pain, painful intercourse, urinary tract infections, appetite loss, abdominal pain, and digestive problems than women who had never been abused.

"Women who were sexually abused (with or without physical abuse) were more likely to have had 1 or more ChS (chronic stress-related symptoms) or CNS (central nervous system) health problems compared with physically abused women who did not report sexual abuse and never-abused women," the authors reported. "Among women who experienced sexual abuse with or without physical abuse, 30% reported three or more GYN (gynecological) health problems compared with only 8% of

(cont'd on page 7)

NEW YORK CITY PILOT

(cont'd from page 5)

and Neglect Information at <http://www.calib.com/nccanch/pubs/otherpubs/harmsway.cfm>.

- *Guidelines for Public Child Welfare Agencies Serving Children and Families Experiencing Domestic Violence* from the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, American Public Human Services Association. The PDF version can be found at <http://www.aphsa.org/hotnews/dvguidelines.pdf>; the word format is at <http://www.aphsa.org/hotnews/dvguidelines.doc>.
- *Guidelines for Conducting Family Team Conferences When There is a History of Domestic Violence* from the Family Violence Prevention Fund at <http://endabuse.org/programs/display.php3?DocID=159>.
- *Domestic Violence: A National Curriculum for Children's Protective Services* from the Family Violence Prevention Fund at <http://endabuse.org/programs/display.php3?DocID=79>.

Effective Intervention In Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and

Practice (also known as the "Greenbook Initiative") from the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, Family Violence Department at <http://www.nationalcouncilfvd.org/pubs/>.
###

Researchers Find Biological Link Between Child Abuse and Increased Likelihood of Later Substance Abuse

From The Children's Bureau Express April 2002

Researchers at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts have found a biological explanation as to why abused children are more likely to become substance abusers later in life.

The study focused on a region of the brain called the cerebellar vermis. Repeated sexual abuse was found to affect blood flow to this region, thereby causing damage. The cerebellar vermis has an important role in people's emotional state, and it is also strongly affected by alcohol, cocaine, and other drugs. "Damage to this area of the brain may cause an individual to be particularly irritable, and to seek exte -

(cont'd on page 7)

DONATE A PHONE, SAVE A LIFE; The Body Shop Challenges Consumers to Donate Used Cell Phones to Help Stop Family Violence

From Business Wire-September 24, 2002

The Body Shop, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) and the Wireless Foundation today announced the launch of a National Cell Phone Collection program to take place during October in support of National Domestic Violence Awareness month. From October 1 through November 10, consumers can make a difference in the lives of those affected by family violence by donating their used wireless phones at any of The Body Shop's 300 U.S. retail locations.

According to a report by the FBI, a woman is beaten in the United States every 15 seconds. Family Violence can affect anyone, male or female, of any race, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic class, religion or gender. However, 92 percent of domestic violence victims are female.

There are so many victims out there that could really benefit from a cell phone, which is still a luxury to most, and The Body Shop's National Cell Phone Collection program will help make it a possibility."

The National Cell Phone Collection program gives new life to used wireless phones while supporting the fight to stop family violence. Donated phones to the National Cell Phone Collection will be sold, refurbished or recycled with proceeds benefiting the NCADV and the Wireless Foundation. The more phones donated, the greater amount of money that is raised for the NCADV and Wireless Foundation to help fund philanthropic and survivor support programs.

"Every family deserves the right to live and love without fear," said Joanne Calabrese, President of The Body Shop Americas region. "We

believe it is crucial to raise awareness about the issue of family violence, one that is typically thought of as private or a family issue. The Body Shop has long been a supporter of domestic violence prevention efforts through our campaign initiatives. We are now providing our customers with a simple and easy way to make a difference on an issue that affects families throughout the United States."

Additionally, each of The Body Shop locations across the U.S. has partnered with local family violence service agencies and shelters to provide support and raise awareness within their communities. The National Cell Phone Collection will directly benefit these agencies and shelters by supplying them with nearly 3,000 wireless phones and airtime. Wireless phones allow victims in need to dial 911 and other emergency services with the push of

(cont'd on page 7)

PHONES

(cont'd from page 6)

a button in the event of a life-threatening situation.

"A wireless phone, in the hands of a victim, can serve as a lifeline and help provide a sense of safety and security," said Rita Smith, Executive Director, NCADV. "Through the National Cell Phone Collection, The Body Shop has given us a simple way to raise our voices against domestic violence."

Used wireless phones are an untapped resource. The average wireless phone user upgrades every two years. With more than 137 million (and growing) wireless phones in use today, this turnover rate creates a steady and large source of used wireless phones.

ABOUT THE BODY SHOP

The Body Shop is an international, values-driven retailer of skin, hair, body care and make-up. It has more than 300 stores in the U.S. and more than 1,900 locations in 50 countries spanning 30 languages and 12 time zones. The Body Shop Stop Family Violence campaign aims to break the silence around this issue and bring support, awareness and education to its customers and employees. Visit www.thebodyshop.com for more information.

ABOUT NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is the action network for raising awareness about domestic violence. As the central source for information, public and private support for the cause, the NCADV serves as a positive force for societal change. The NCADV seeks to educate the general public about domestic violence and its root causes, and offers support to survivors. Visit www.ncadv.org for more information.

ABOUT THE WIRELESS FOUNDATION

The Wireless Foundation is a non-profit organization that was established by the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association (CTIA) in 1993. The Foundation oversees a number of programs designed to put wireless technology to work addressing the challenges of society. Visit www.wirelessfoundation.org or www.donateaphone.com for more information.

Other companies, such as Tandy corp (Radio Shack) have similar programs. Editor

CHILD ABUSE/ SUBSTANCE ABUSE LINK

(cont'd from page 6)

nal means, such as drugs or alcohol, to quell this irritability," according to Carl Anderson, Ph. D., who was involved in the study.

Anderson and his colleagues measured resting brain blood flow in the cerebellar vermis of 32 participants, ages 18 to 22. In the 15 subjects that had a history of childhood abuse, the researchers measured lower blood flows. As reported in the January 2002 edition of *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, researchers used information from this and another study of 537 drug-abusing college students to conclude that childhood abuse impairs the development of the cerebellar vermis; a function of which is to control the level of an individual's irritability. Such an individual is then more likely to use drugs to compensate for this lack of control.

Related Items

See the following related articles in these past issues of the *Children's Bureau Express* (<http://www.calib.com/cbexpress>):

- Abused Children Susceptible to Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Problems as Adults, January/February 2001
- Guidance for Treating Substance Abusers Affected by Child Abuse and Neglect Issues, April 2000

###

DV AND HEALTH

(cont'd from page 6)

those who experienced physical abuse alone and 6% of those never abused." Another large difference was seen with ChS problems; 78%

compared with 54% of women who reported only physical abuse and 45% of never abused women. The differences in CNS symptoms among the three groups demonstrate the same patterns and similar magnitudes (69% sexual abuse; 59% physical abuse only; and 47% never abused) (Arch Intern Med 2002; 162:1157-1163).

"Screening is a necessary first step toward effective intervention and protection of abused women. Primary care providers who only screen for IPV when women present with an injury will miss most women who may be experiencing health problems as a consequence of abuse. When women present with GYN problems, especially multiple problems, ChS problems, or CNS problems, primary care physicians should consider domestic violence as one possible root cause," the authors concluded.

This article was prepared by Women's Health Weekly editors from staff and other reports.

###

ANIMAL CRUELTY

(cont'd from page 6)

community can start by contacting their counterparts in social services, animal protection, law enforcement, and other targeted agencies, as well as joining their local anti-violence coalitions. In addition, professionals in human service agencies could begin including questions about animal abuse on intake and assessment forms with victims of family violence. Data collected from

these questions can be useful when an agency applies for funding to start a program or wants to demonstrate the need for a program in its area. Finally, HSUS' First Strike™ Campaign, a long-term national campaign designed to raise public professional awareness about the connection between animal cruelty and family violence, can provide workshops, trainings, and technical assistance to local advocates interested in starting a program.

For more information on the First Strike™ Campaign contact The HSUS at (888) 213-0956 or firststrike@hsus.org.

¹ Claire Ponder was the Manager of The Humane Society of the United States' First Strike™ Campaign. She can be reached at (202) 364-4434.

² DeViney, L., J. Dickert and R. Lockwood. 1983. *The care of pets within child abusing families*. International Journal for the Study of Animal Problems. 4(4): 321-326.

³ Ascione, F.R. 1995. *Domestic Violence and Cruelty to Animals*. Paper presented at the 4th International Conference on Family Violence, Durham, NH; Ascione, F.R. 1998. *Battered Women's Reports of Their Partners' and Their Children's Cruelty to Animals*. Journal of Emotional Abuse 1(1): 119-133.

⁴ The Humane Society of the United States, 2001. *2000 Report of Animal Cruelty Cases*. Washington, DC.

⁵ Cities interested in starting a safe haven program may wish to order a free copy of Dr. Frank Ascione's recent book, *Safe Havens for Pets: Guidelines for Programs Sheltering Pets for Women Who Are Battered*. If interested, send your request and an adhesive self-address mailing label to: Frank R. Ascione, Ph. D., Department of Psychology, Utah State University, 2810 Old Main Hill, Logan, UT 84322-2810.

###

TEEN PREGNANCY

(cont'd from page 5)

smaller images. Some are empty black boxes—meaningless information—and some are themselves pictures. To see the smaller pictures clearly, each must be taken out of context and inspected on its own. Van Gogh is gone, but the sunflowers remain.

Similarly, Ms. Hamilton and her team had to do away with Van Gogh-the signal-before they could understand the smaller pictures-the noise.

Using a sophisticated mathematical technique called diffusion entropy analysis, researchers first removed the trends they already understood. Details of the technique are described in the paper, at www.arxiv.org/PS_cache/cond-mat/pdf/0205/0205524.pdf.

Women are more likely to give birth during the week than during the weekend; the average number of births to teens has fallen over time; and fertility rates rise in warmer months. These signals in teen birth data make up the big picture.

When Ms. Hamilton and her team stripped those signals from the data, they were left with some more subtle trends.

But to understand what those trends are, and the social conditions that create them, the team had to scrutinize each one.

Some compelling patterns emerged. For example, social conditions appeared to influen-

(cont'd on page 8)

TEEN PREGNANCY

(cont'd from page 7)

ce unmarried teens more heavily than married teens. With the larger trends gone from the data, the married teens' behavior appeared mostly random, but data from the unmarried group still held information. And the pregnancy rates among minority teenagers appeared to hold the most patterns overall.

The study "reveals that white people tend to become more and more random, while African-Americans and Hispanics do maintain a significant amount of complexity," says Paolo Grigolini, a physics professor at the University of North Texas in Denton and a co-author of the study. "What's the sociological meaning of that? I do not know," he says.

(Complexity in this kind of data shows that while some behaviors may be hard to predict, they follow underlying patterns that can be understood with the right mathematical tools.)

For the time being, scientists can only speculate about which social conditions affect teen pregnancy rates and how. A nurse by trade, Ms. Hamilton is optimistic about what the technique will bring to the social sciences but also to clinicians who might use the information to save some lives and make others better.

Raymond Eve, a physicist at the University of Texas at Arlington, says techniques such as diffusion entropy analysis may transform the way scientists manage social problems that don't follow simple rules.

Chaos and complexity theory, Dr. Eve says, will allow the people who enact reforms in social policies—doctors and policymakers, for example—to better evaluate what effects such changes have.

Knowing which teens are most sensitive to changes in hospital policies, for example, will allow physicians to monitor the highest-risk groups.

Small changes in social policy can have enormous effects in the long run, Dr. Eve says. Understanding how that works will help doctors design social and health systems that prevent unwanted teen pregnancies from occurring, and to provide healthy environments for those that do.

"It's a little bit like you get this set of X-ray glasses," says Dr. Eve. Using traditional methods to understand these

problems, he says, "is like trying to cut a coconut with a rubber band. We have more appropriate tools now."

###

PARKLAND VIP CENTER

(cont'd from page 1)

mally opened in 1999 as a resource to help break the cycle of violence. Victims and their families are able to access medical and psychological assessments, medical follow-up, intervention and prevention services and legal advocacy.

Victim services are complemented and supported by an education and research component providing the most current information available to hospital staff involved in victim care. This approach to victim care has resulted in a sustained increase in referrals from medical providers and community agencies, decreased medical costs and optimized resource utilization within the hospital system.

Overall, the availability of the VIP Center program has resulted in an enhanced system of care for a population of victims who are often overlooked by the medical care system.

###

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POSES 'DOUBLE JEOPARDY'

(cont'd from page 5)

restraining order, found a job as a cashier and began building a nest egg so she and her two children could move away.

Her husband responded by driving to the grocery store where she worked and, using a car rented expressly for the purpose, running her down. Then he stabbed her four times, damaging her heart and her lungs.

On Thursday, Evsich—now vice-president of Women Against Domestic Violence, an activist group based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida—came to Capitol Hill to tell her story to

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, which is considering amendments to welfare reform legislation dealing with victims of domestic violence.

"Workplaces need to know and understand the dynamics of abuse," she said. "The whole aim of an abuser is to make a victim solely dependent on them so she can't leave."

"She can't buy clothes for her children, she can't buy food for her children unless she has a job. Employers need to understand that."

Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.), who convened the hearing, described the "double jeopardy" of domestic violence: "Too often women are forced to choose between protecting themselves from abuse and keeping a roof over their head," he said. No one should "face the double tragedy of first being abused and then losing a job, health insurance or any other means of self-sufficiency because they were abused."

At present, only California, Colorado and Maine have laws allowing victims of domestic violence to take leaves of absence from their jobs. Colorado and Maine extend the provisions to victims of stalkers and sexual assault, said Kathy Rodgers, president of the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund. A similar proposal has passed the California Assembly and is now before the state Senate, Rodgers said.

Although 18 states, including California, have passed laws providing unemployment insurance to employees who leave jobs because of domestic violence, victims often can't claim unemployment, welfare, or Family and Medical Leave Act benefits, experts said.

More than 2.8 million people are victimized by intimate partners annually, according to a 2000 Department of Justice report. Homicide is the leading cause of death on the job for women, and more than 20% of those crimes are committed by their husbands or boyfriends, Diane Stuart, director of the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women office, told the committee.

Still, only "a very small number" of companies have programs to help victims of violence, according to the NOW legal defense fund.

For Sidney Harman, co-founder of Harman International Industries, Inc., a Washington-based high-end audio technology company, it took the death of a 24-year employee to force an executive decision.

Teresa Duran, a 56 year-old worker at the Fortune 500 company, was gunned down in May 2001 by her former husband as she was returning home from work. Harman approached the Family Violence Prevention Fund, part of the Justice Department, and local police to develop a program that would train employees to offer information and referrals on domestic violence. The company also developed internal security systems to protect confidentiality and prevent situations where employees could be physically harmed.

Businesses pay an estimated \$3 billion to \$5 billion a year in medical expenses caused by domestic violence, according to the Bureau of National Affairs. The National Health Resource Center for Domestic Violence reports that 94% of corporate security directors rank it as a high security problem; 71% of human resources and security personnel surveyed have had an incident of domestic violence occur on company property.

To prevent workplace violence, employers can change an employee's phone extension or route calls through a receptionist. Registering protective orders with building security or transferring the employee to another site may also help, experts said. Stuart, of the Justice Department, called on communities to create teams of lawyers, shelter providers and community members to help employers devise plans. The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act-comprehensive measures introduced last year that proponents say extend government benefits to victims of domestic violence—has been referred to committee but has not been heard. Instead, senators, including Wellstone, aim to get some of its provisions included in welfare reform legislation up for renewal in September.

The hearing Thursday was not well-attended, partly because of a nearby homeland security meeting. But those senators who came said they would continue to fight.

"I don't think we can forget these women today," said Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.). "For them, homeland security has an entirely different meaning."

###

HHS AWARDS \$100 MILLION IN BONUSES TO STATES FOR REDUCTIONS IN OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS

From the HHS NEWS Press Release October 4, 2002

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced the awarding of \$100 million in bonuses to four states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands for achieving the nation's largest decreases in out-of-wedlock births between 1997 and 2000. This is the fourth award of bonuses for reductions in out-of-wedlock births, as provided for in the welfare reform law of 1996.

Alabama, Colorado, Michigan, Texas and the District of Columbia will each receive a bonus of about \$19.9 million, while the Virgin Islands will receive \$888,500.

"Reducing out-of-wedlock births can significantly and positively affect the lives of our children and youth," Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said. "We encourage all states to continue to develop programs that will have a positive effect on encouraging marriage and the formation of stable families as a part of the President's healthy marriage initiative."

The out-of-wedlock birth rate fell 3.5 percent in the District of Columbia; 2.6 percent in the Virgin Islands; 1.2 percent in Michigan; 0.7 percent in Colorado; 0.6 percent in Texas; and 0.5 percent in Alabama. This is the fourth year that Michigan, Alabama and the District of Columbia have received this award.

The welfare reform law of 1996 required all states to develop strategies and goals for reducing out-of-wedlock births. Under the law, the annual bonuses are awarded to as many as five states and three territories if eligible, with the largest reduction in the proportion of out-of-wedlock births to total births. HHS' National Center for Health Statistics compiles the birth data based on records submitted by the states and compares the proportion for the most recent two-year period to that for the preceding two-year period.

"President Bush's healthy marriage initiative, which is pending before Congress, will enable our state partners to continue this important work by emphasizing the importance of marriage first," HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families Wade Horn said.

"In addition, continued funding for abstinence education can also be an important component in promoting healthy marriages."

In order to receive the bonuses, the top states also are required to show a decrease in their abortion rate between the most recent year and 1995. The abortion rate is measured as the number of abortions divided by the number of births.

A table prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics showing the ratios and rankings for the out-of-wedlock birth bonuses awarded by the

Administration for Children and Families available in the press release at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/nepress/2002/release_1004.html.

Related information on teen births is available on the Child Trends website at <http://www.childtrends.org/PDFAAG2002.pdf>

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MOLESTATION VICTIMS

(cont'd from page 4)

Prosecutors disagree and say still more needs to be done. "We know survivors of child molestation carry it forever, and that some go on to become perpetrators," Boyarsky said.

Childhood abuse can be overcome. Many victims, like Risley, find strength by helping others. Her foundation has produced a 25-minute film, "Glasheards," that she hopes to show in schools to raise awareness of sexual abuse.

But unlike Risley, many others do not get needed therapy because they get caught up in the juvenile court system for prostitution or drugs, and

because funding for treatment is lacking.

"The transformation is durable, but it requires specialized intervention," Arrendondo said. "The psychological effects of this type of thing on a child are very complex."

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CONFERENCES

November 12, 2002- Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D. "The Impact of Abuse and Neglect on the Developing Child"- Dallas, Texas-Temple Emanu-El, 8500 Hillcrest Rd. 8:45 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Professionals \$110 registration fee; students \$55. For registration form and information contact Jewish Family Services 972-437-9950. Ask for Family Violence Program.

November 13, 2002 - AUDIO CONFERENCE CALL- "Rural Things Considered-Advocacy & Community Organizing"- Audio conference will offer how to monitor batterer's programs in rural areas. TIME: 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. CST. Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.

November 20, 2002-An Interactive Video Conference on Child Protective Service Responses to Domestic Violence Cases-Will address issues of identifying child witnessing of domestic violence as child abuse to class action law suits by battered women who have had their children removed, interveners in child protection cases are being challenged to rapidly adapt their response. TIME: 1:00 p.m. to

4:00 p.m. via video. Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.

November 20, 2002- Rural Things Considered Audio Conference: Tribal Grantees Audio conference will provide how we can use traditional ways to work with men who batter. TIME: 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. CSST. Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.

November 27, 2002 - Rural Things Considered Audio Conference-Criminal & Civil Justice Systems-Audio conference will provide how to keep batterers programs and probation/courts well TIME: 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. CST. Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.

December 11, 2002 - Rural Things considered Audio Conference: Advocacy & Community Building-Audio conference will address the issues for rural shelters and their current dilemmas. TIME: 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. CST> Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.

December 18, 2002- Rural Things considered Audio Conference: Tribal Grantees- Audio conference will address how we use traditional ways to work with women who are battered. Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.

January 8, 2003 - Rural Things Considered Audio Conference- Advocacy and Community Organizing will address

the issues of working with women who have mental health and substance abuse problems. TIME: 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. CST. Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.

January 15, 2003- Rural Things Considered Audio Conference: Tribal Grantees will examine how tribal and state coalitions can work together. TIME: 2:00-3:15 p.m. CST. Contact Praxis International for further information at 218-525-0487.

February 5, 2002 - Rural Things Considered Audio Conference-Battered Women and Their Children will examine the role of visiting centers with its relation to domestic violence. Contact Praxis International at 218-525-0487 for further information.



WEB SITES

Family Violence Prevention Fund- <http://www.fvpf.org>. Information on the FVFP's Children's Program is available on the web at <http://endabuse.org/programs/children>.

THE SPOTLIGHT

Volume 3, Issue 3

Quarter III, 2002

National Center for Victims of Crime:
<http://www.ncvc.org/>

American Bar Association- <http://www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html>

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

National Coalition Against Domestic
Violence- <http://www.ncadv.org>

Violence Against Women Office - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo>

NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund:
<http://www.nowldef.org>

State and Local Governments: click on
Children and Families for DV info. <http://www.sstatelocal.gov>

Minnesota Center Against Violence &
Abuse: <http://www.mincava.unm.edu>

Toolkit to End Violence Against Women -
<http://www.toolkit.ncjrs.org>

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SAVE THE DATE

**Region VI ACF Annual
Mid-Winter Leadership
Conference January
21-24, 2003 at the Hyatt
Regency Hotel, Dallas,
Texas.**

**Web site with agenda
will be up soon. Web
site address will be in
the 2002 Quarter IV
SPOTLIGHT, mailed
in December.**

THE SPOTLIGHT is a quarterly publication of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Region VI, Dallas, Texas.

THE SPOTLIGHT communicates information on domestic violence, substance abuse and teen pregnancy prevention programs, services, conferences and other activities to our Region VI State, Tribal, local and federal partners and to all ACF offices nationally.

Region VI is comprised of the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas.

Please send information on conferences, special program initiatives, local collaboration, and major staff training initiatives in the subject areas as well as articles of interest on domestic violence, substance abuse or teen pregnancy prevention from your organization, state or community to:

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